

**AES Technical Committee on Acoustics and Sound Reinforcement**  
**Minutes from Technical Committee meeting– AES 154 Helsinki 2023**  
**Friday, 26 May 2023, 11am – 12pm (EDT), MS Teams**

**Attendance:**

Adam Hill (chair) – AH, Kurt Graffy (chair) – KG, Michael Lawrence – ML, Peter Mapp – PM, Tobias Goldmann – TG, Arica Rust – AR, Ben Kok – BK, Andy Wardle – AW, Jon Burton – JB, Charbel Hourani – CH, Tim Kuschel – TK, Ugis Vilcans – UV, John Woodgate – JW, David Prince – DP, Etienne Corteel – EC, Eric Ferguson – EF, Bob McCarthy – BM, Olushola Aremu – OA

**Apologies:**

Elena Shabalina (vice chair) – ES, Francois Montignies – FM, Jim Griffiths – JG, Boris Rehders – BR, Christian Frick – CF, Marcel Kok – MK, Tom Bland – TB, Soren Bech – SB, James Hipperson – JH, Neil Shaw – NS, Bruce Olson – BO

1. Minutes and actions from AES 153 New York 2022
  - AH noted that all actions appear on the current meeting agenda, so there was nothing to discuss.
2. AES 154 Helsinki 2023 – sessions supported by TC-ASR
  - AH thanked JH, BR and TK for their contributions to the Max SPL workshop at the convention (apologies for missing this on the agenda). TK noted that the session was very well attended and went well.
  - BK gave an overview of other relevant sessions at the convention. Some were quite good, while others weren't delivered particularly well. He suggested that the TC should work to support sessions on acoustics at future conventions.
3. AES 155 New York (25-27 October 2023)
  - AH noted that the deadline for session proposals was the following week (31 May), so there was limited time to develop any proposals.
  - ML, BM, AR and EF indicated that they would be in attendance and were open to contribute to a session.
  - AR mentioned an existing proposal for a session on loudspeaker “shootouts”, which was proposed for the previous two conventions, but rejected due to misunderstandings regarding the technical requirements (as the session would be online). AR offered to re-submit this proposal for this convention. BM and ML would be happy to participate. KG noted that we should be careful not to take

away from the upcoming conference in January 2024. AH suggested that most sessions have been arranged for the conference, so there is little risk of this, but perhaps a session like this might serve as a promotional tool for the conference.

- **Action (AR):** Re-submit the proposal for the loudspeaker shootout session by 31 May.

#### 4. Acoustics and Sound Reinforcement Conference (Le Mans, France, 22-26 January 2024)

- AR provided an update on the conference planning. It has now been officially approved and is on the AES website (<https://aes2.org/events-calendar/2024-sound-reinforcement-conference/>).
- The core of the conference is over three days, with a different topic for each day. The fourth day is reserved for visits to local companies. Keynote speakers for each day have been confirmed.
  - Day 1: Electroacoustic system design
  - Day 2: Hearing safety and noise pollution
  - Day 3: Future of sound reinforcement
  - Day 4: Optional site visits/tours
- We've secured nearly all the sponsors needed, but there is still an opening for a silver-level sponsor.
- AR described a provision for student scholarships, which has been supported by MK's company, dBcontrol.
- AH gave an overview of the planned panel sessions for each day of the conference and invited TC members to express interest in participating.
  - Day 1: Sound system design and operation (chair: Jon Burton)
  - Day 2: Ethics of sound reinforcement (chair: Jos Mulder)
  - Day 3: Future of sound reinforcement (chair: TBC)
- AR noted that there is room for around 150 people to attend.
- AR shared the LinkedIn page for the conference with the TC members present (<https://www.linkedin.com/events/aessoundreinforcement2024confer7048681155688046593/>) and asked them to share with their networks. Paper submissions will open in mid-July with a mid-September deadline.
- **Action (all TC members):** Share the LinkedIn event page for the conference with your network (if you're on LinkedIn).
- **Action (all TC members):** Get in touch with AR if you are interested in getting involved with a panel session or in another way with the conference.
- **Action (all TC members):** Get in touch with AR if your company would like to sponsor the conference.

## 5. Working groups, standards work, or other TC-related activities

- Healthy Ears, Limited Annoyance (HELA) certification scheme
  - AH updated the TC on progress with the HELA certification scheme. Support has been received from the AES President (TC-ASR member, Bruce Olson) and the new AES Executive Director. They will support HELA through PR and webspace. This TC will have oversight of the certification scheme's content.
  - There is also support from the WHO Make Listening Safe initiative. AH will be travelling to Geneva in early June for another round of consultation meetings, where there will be a panel session that will partially focus on HELA. The certification aligns with WHO's ambitions in this area.
  - The certification content will be managed by the HELA sub-group within TC-ASR, but this will be delivered by external partners. We will only be providing the raw content and learning outcomes.
  - AH pre-warned the TC members that they will receive a draft of the certification content in late-July/early-August, where comments will be welcome.
  - JW stressed how subjective noise annoyance can be and how difficult this is to predict or control. AH agreed, noting that the "LA" in HELA stands for limited annoyance, as it would be impossible to eliminate all annoyance. JW suggested that this should be emphasized in the content.
  - JB noted that this certification is for all key stakeholders at live events, not just engineers/technicians. He is currently building up a support network that will help promote the certification once it's launched in 2024.
  - The first delivery partner will be Rational Acoustics (USA). ML noted, though, that this is open to any company to deliver (with approval from the HELA sub-group of TC-ASR). EC expressed interest in L-Acoustics (France) as a potential delivery partner.
  - **Action (all TC members):** Please look out for an email from AH in July/August with the draft HELA content and feel free to send back any comments/suggestions.
  - **Action (all TC members):** Consider if your company would be interested in delivering this certification. Contact AH to discuss.
- WHO Make Listening Safe initiative
  - AH noted that the WHO published the Global Standard on Safe Listening Venues and Events in March 2022 and is now focused on disseminating the recommendations. Education is a central focus here.

- See above for links to the HELA certification.
- AESTD1007.1.20-05 update
  - AH would like to see this technical document updated/refreshed in 2025 (it was first published in 2020). There is new information that should be included in certain sections and input from audiologists is appropriate to ensure that the content is accurate and up to date in the relevant areas.
  - **Action (all TC members):** Contact AH if you are interested in contributing to the update of this document. Work will commence in 2024, after the conference has finished and HELA is launched.
- Update from working group on noise control at live events
  - TG noted that there was little movement with this working group since the last meeting, as all members have been busy. He expects activity to pick up later this year.
- Update from working group on sound system standardization
  - AH noted that there were no members present from this group and that he didn't know of any progress to report since the last meeting.
  - JW mentioned that BS6259 is many years out of date now. While it isn't directly related to the focus of this working group, he wondered if there's any interest from TC members. Perhaps aspects of it could feed into the technical document? PM supported the idea that this standard was very out of date.
  - **Action (AH):** Review BS6259 for potential consideration by the TC.

## 6. TC-ASR membership/leadership

- Still in search of a new vice-chair, preferably from outside Europe
  - AH mentioned that the TC is still in need of another vice chair, preferably someone who can take over coordination of convention session proposals from the TC. KG, ES and AH have discussed a few potential individuals for this role but are open to suggestions. Someone outside of Europe is preferred.
  - **Action (all TC members):** Send AH any suggestions for a vice chair.
  - **Action (AH, KG, ES):** Identify and appoint a new vice chair, after receiving input from TC members.
- New members: Daniele Ponteggia, Merlijn van Veen
  - AH welcomed the two new members to the TC.

- AH noted that CF has asked to leave the TC due to a lack of time to commit to our activities, but not due to a lack of interest in the TC's activities.
- Membership list "clean-up" due (last done in 2017)
  - AH mentioned that the TC is due for a membership list clean-up. He will go through the membership list and contact people individually to ensure that they still wish to remain part of the TC.
  - **Action (all TC members):** Look out for an email from AH over the summer asking for confirmation of your ongoing membership of TC-ASR. No response will be taken as a wish to be removed from the list.

#### 7. Any other business

- AR and EC talked about the workshops for the conference in January 2024. They are looking for support from companies in France to run these workshops. EC has sent an email regarding this to the conference sponsors but can pass this onto all TC members. CH offered to help, as he is working for a live event company in France.
- **Action (EC):** Circulate email regarding conference workshops through the TC mailing list.
- **Action (CH):** Email AR and EC about potential support of a conference workshop.
- **Action (all TC members):** Contact EC and/or AR if you are interested in supporting any of the conference workshops.

*Minutes compiled by AH, 1 June 2023.*